MATWATCH

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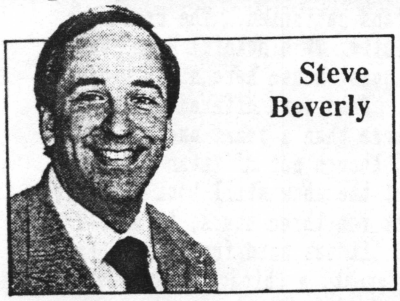
Leaves WWF After Wrestlemania

SPIRALSPINNER SCHIAVONE RETURNS TO NWA ROOTS

Slightly more than one year after leaving the NWA, initiating an announcers' spiral which still continues, Tony Schiavone has signed to return to World Chammpionship Wrestling, Inc., effective the week of April 9.



Steve Beverly

WCW executive Jim Herd confirmed Schiavone's hiring last Friday. The former minor league baseball announcer, who co-hosted WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING on TBS for four years and called action on WORLD WIDE WRESTLING (1984-89), will leave the WWF, which he joined late in January of last year, immediately after WRESTLEMANIA VI. At deadline, no decision had been reached on Schiavone's replacement on WWF WRESTLING CHALLENGE.

Schiavone is reportedly not leaving the WWF on bad terms. Inside sources tell MATWATCH Schiavone, who has five children, has found the cost of living in the Northeast too expensive. Further reports state Schiavone only went to the WWF for $7,000 more than the NWA offered last year. The sudden jump to Titan led to the hiring of veteran Lance Russell and, eventually, Chris Cruise to replace Schiavone on NWA syndicated shows.

Herd said Schiavone will assume the role of executive producer of syndication and return as host of WORLD WIDE WRESTLING. A decision has not been made if Terry Funk, who has co-hosted WWW with Cruise, will continue on color. Herd said Funk, who has also been titular head of syndication's creative efforts, will continue his FUNK'S GRILL segments, booking committee role and other WCW projects. The WCW chief denied stories that Funk's salary is being slashed in half or that the former NWA world champion will leave WCW by May 1.

"We haven't decided how this is going to affect any of our other guys," said Herd. "We'll be considering that in the next week." Schiavone will likely be involved in at least one of the cable superstation NWA shows beyond TBS, either on WPIX (New York) or the forthcoming WGN (Chicago), the latter of which has no official start date. Cruise is the only one immediately affected. The Maine resident, a non-contract announcer who joined WCW last October, will definitely lose his WWW slot.

Schiavone's career grew nationally during his one-year WWF stint. After a short period as host of Titan's WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT studio show, Schiavone replaced Gorilla Monsoon as play-by-play commentator on CHALLENGE, with Monsoon moving to color. Schiavone also logged two pay-per-view calls, SUMMER SLAM '89 and ROYAL RUMBLE III, which many consider Schiavone's best-ever effort.

With current NWA schedules in place, Schiavone will probably reappear on NWA syndication the week of April 21. Among considerations for his slot on WRESTLING CHALLENGE are a return to a Monsoon-Heenan team and earlier in the year, Paul E. Dangerously had been speculated for a tryout on the series.

(COMMENTARY: The hiring of Schiavone, who rose to runner-up to Jim Ross for the MATWATCH Play-by-Play Announcer of the Year in 1989, is definitely a plus. He has grown to a major level of respect among fans and better fits NWA-style of commentary. In addition, it forces McMahon to make a shuffle, for a change.

However, my biggest concern is that another developing commentator could be lost in the shuffle. I feel uncomfortable even speculating about it but Chris Cruise can and should be given a slot to develop. After a slow start, Cruise has increased is intensity in calling play-by-play and the team of Cruise and Funk, in my opinion, is only now just beginning to jell. Cruise is not as hard sell as other NWA announcers and---in my view---that is a welcome contrast. His low-key style allows Funk the freedom to expand his craziness. At a time when this profession badly needs to recruit fresh faces and talent not only in the ring but at ringside, the virtues of regaining a Tony Schiavone should not be at the expense of a Chris Cruise. Anyone who saw Schiavone's early days with Jim Crockett remembers how young, green and tentative he was, even with names of the holds. And he was often savaged for being in a role he didn't ask for: replacing Gordon Solie on TBS in 1985. But he learned and survived. Shouldn't Cruise have an equal opportunity?

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

ARN: SURGERY COULD KEEP HIM OUT ONE YEAR

ATLANTA----Arn Anderson could face serious surgery which could keep him out of action more than a year.

Anderson, who has suffered from numbness in an arm and shoulder since his WRESTLE WAR '90 tag team match against the Steiner Brothers, has been examined by specialists Dr. Tony Wheeler and Dr. Fred Allman.

Even with a return of feeling, Anderson was still expected to miss six weeks, but doctors are concerned he will require delicate surgery that involves searching for the affected nerve, similar to procedure during a spinal tap.

The surgery, if necessary, would require an indefinite recovery period.

"USWA LIVE" CONCEPT APPARENTLY DEAD

DALLAS----Plans to deliver USWA matches live on Saturday mornings are either being postponed or scuttled.

MATWATCH has learned not enough clearances for a live broadcast, which was scheduled to begin April 7, have been landed to make the project financially

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

(Continued from Page 1)

profitable. Plans were to offer the Saturday morning Sportatorium matches live on a national basis.

GILLAM APPARENTLY DUMPED AS NWA RING ANNOUNCER

ATLANTA----NWA ring announcer Tony Gillam has apparently been dropped from his touring role with the promotion.

Inside reports are Gillam was told of his dismissal in a phone call from the World Championship Wrestling office last Thursday.

Hired last year, along with Gary Cappetta, for rotating 10-day tours of NWA shows, no reason has been publicly given for Gillam's departure.

"WRESTLING WEEKLY" SERIES BEGINS ON RADIO NETWORK

BALTIMORE----A new magazine series, WRESTLING WEEKLY, begins Saturday night on stations affiliated with American Radio Network.

The program, to be fed live from 7-8 p.m. (ET), has signed 20 stations in 17 markets, including Los Angeles, Fresno, Joplin, Utica, Daytona Beach-Orlando, South Bend, Flint, Reno, Erie, Tyler (TX), Milwaukee, Salt Lake City, Baltimore, and Pittsburgh.

Baltimore radio host Larry Katz will be a contributing editor. To check the affiliate in your area, call (800) 825-5321 or (301) 532-2563.

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Pinfall Profile

TAPINGS: BETTER BUT WAY TOO LONG

COLUMBUS, Ga.----They're still too long.

Last Tuesday night, we ventured to my home arena on the banks of the Chattahoochee River for tapings of four NWA TV outings, the ones you'll see this weekend.

Last June, we watched an NWA PRO and WORLD WIDE taping here which took more than three hours, offering mostly squashes and three dark matches, one of which---a Terry Funk-Ranger Ross affair---had been necessitated by a recurring NWA bugaboo---injuries. People left unfulfilled, angry and confused as to why billed matches inexplicably changed.

A still injury-plagued NWA provided a much more competitive taping which left most fans satisfied. The crowd was only 1,524 in the 4,000-seat (after TV blockoff) Municipal Auditorium. But it was the biggest house here since December 1988 and the crowd was lively. Fans were offered programs, which they'd not had here in more than a year, and the souvenir stand was much improved, though not of Titan variety.

If I have a fault, it's that the show still took too long to complete. The 15-bout night ran three hours, 55 minutes on a school night and at 11:25, it was hard for fans to explode for the evening's final event, a Chicago Street Fight between Hawk and Butch Reed. Which brings up another issue: that match had been plugged as Road Warriors vs. DOOMED. Once again, why didn't the fans receive a simple explanation as to why it became a single? I know the wrestling mentality is "they'll never know the difference." They do. At least 30 people who read my weekly Columbus Ledger-Enquirer column asked why the change. I embarrassingly had no answer. Why not set a refreshing precedent and tell the truth?

Best match: an Eddie Gilbert-Cactus Jack clash for Friday's POWER HOUR. If these guys take that kind of punishment for the next month, you'll add two more to the injury list.

CHRIS CRUISE DONS A DUDS CAP AND A U.S. TAGTEAM BELT TO CLOSE OUT A RECENT WWW... MY BUDDY IS SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME AROUND TERRY FUNK!
THIS IS CHRIS CRUISE SAYING GOODNIGHT FROM RATSNOUT, ALABAMA, FOR WORLD WIDE WRESTLING...

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS- Midscale.

(PORTLAND) - PACIFIC NW TITLE: Curtis Thompson d. Scotty the Body to retain belt on reversal when Ricky Santana tells ref Jonathan Holliday hit Curtis w. umbrella; Juicers d. Al Madril/Moondog Moretti; Grappler/Brian Adams d. Santana/Bill Francis; Rip Oliver d. Spoiler; BATTLE ROYAL in progress as show ends. ANGLE: Santana offers to defend TV title vs. Scotty next week. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(WINDY CITY) - [REPLAY]: Eddie Gilbert/Original Midnight Express d. Terminators/Thor (who juices) when Paul E. Dangerously hits Thor w. phone. Larry Cameron saves. NO RATING.

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Royal Family d. Joe Cruz/Italian Stallion; WNN: Gordon Solie updates NWA injuries; Wild Samoans d. Mike Hart/Jerry Price; LOUISVILLE SLUGGER: Ole Anderson says he has a team to get rid of the Steiners; Kevin Sullivan/Cactus Jack d. Tommy Rich/Ranger Ross when Kevin holds Ranger's tights. Norman saves Ranger but after Sullivan/Cactus double on Norm, Mike Rotunda saves. BOMB-PLUS... very uninspiring hour for this series.
[WCW]: Gilbert d. Jacko Victory; Rock & Roll Express d. Nasty Ned Brady/Hacksaw Higgins; (REPLAY) Midnight Express attack on Brian Pillman; GHETTO STREET FIGHT: DOOMED d. Paul Drake/William Bell; (RETROSPECTIVE) Verne's Wrecking Crew attacks Steiners in Gainesville & Steiners-Andersons saga; Rich d. Rip Morgan; Samoans d. Robbie Idol/Ross; Sullivan/Cactus d. Norm/Rotunda by DQ. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[MAIN EVENT]: Ric Flair d. Johnny Ace; Wrecking Crew II wins squash. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WORLD WIDE]: Steiners d. Bubba Rose/Rick Fargo but Verne's Wrecking Crew attack after; FUNK'S GRILL: Norman/Rotunda & Norm talks about eating beans; DOOMED d. Brodie Chase/Hart; (REPLAY) M Ex attack on Pillman; Ric Flair d. Eddie Gilbert w. tights. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[NWA PRO]: Jimmy Garvin subs for Michael Hayes, who is "in England;" R & R Ex d. Lee Scott/Zam Panzer; Verne's Wrecking Crew d. Larry Santo/Stallion; Norm d. Rose; (REPLAY) M Ex attack Pillman; DOOMED d. Rich/Ace. RESTHOLD.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Hulk Hogan d. Dino Bravo & Ultimate Warrior saves Hulk from beating by Earthquake Tenta after; Hart Foundation d. Buddy Rose/Mike Sharpe; Rick Rude d. Pez Whatley; Hercules/Paul Roma d. Brooklyn Brawler/Black Bart; Tugboat d. Randy Jones; Rick Martel d. Terry Taylor; Akeem d. Riki Ataki; Demolition d. Dale Wolfe/Steve Desire. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(SCW) - Randy Rose d. John Brewer; Billy Starr d. Jimmy Steele; Nick Busich d. Tony Key; Ted Allen d. Mike Winner; Steve Lawler d. Allen Horne. BOMB.

TV TEMPO
March 12-18

(ICW) - Roadblock d. 4 jobbers; Joe Cruel d. Cornbread Phillips; C.Q. Madison d. Hurricane by DQ when 'Cane uses pineapple; Oneida d. Chris Michaels; Cheetah Kid d. Doug Gilbert by DQ when Paul E. Dangerously uses phone; ICW TITLE: Tony Atlas d. Roadblock. BOMB-PLUS.

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Demo d. Wolfe/Desire; Martel d. Omar Atlas; Harts d. Black Knight/Sharpe; Big Bossman d. Black Bart; Orient Express d. Whatley/Ted Power. RESTHOLD.
[SUPERSTARS]: Jim Duggan d. Knight; Brutus Beefcake d. Terry Zeller; Bad News Brown d. Stephan deLeon; Kingfish Rhodes d. Darryl Nickels; Ted DiBiase d. Whatley; UPDATE: Replay of Hogan-Tenta-Bravo-Warrior angle; WM6 REPORT: Steve Allen announced as commentator, Rona Barrett says she'll tell where Liz is; BRO. LUV: Bobby Heenan hints at a problem in the Family. Vince McMahon says it's a Giant problem. RESTHOLD.

(USWA) - Dutch Mantel d. Chris Youngblood; Matt Borne d. Sheik Braddock; USWA TAG TITLE: S. Rockers d. Stud Stable; USWA TITLE: Jerry Lawler d. Jimmy Valiant. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(CWA/SYND.) - VIDEO: S. Rockers, Fuller/Lee; Jeff Jarrett/Bill Dundee d. Youngblood/Alex Porteau; Lawler d. Ben Jordan but Chris Champion saves; B.J. Travis/Terrence Garvin d. Clifton/Evans. BOMB-PLUS.

(PWF) - Buddy Landell d. Wild Thing; Tyree Pride/Jamaica Kid d. Dennis Knight/Hurricane Walker; Lou Perez d. Coconut Kid; Terminator d. Bounty Hunter I; Steve Keirn d. Bounty Hunter II but Buddy Landell runs in before Termie saves; Nasty Boys vs. Bodyguard/Jim Backlund in brawl as show ends. BOMB-PLUS.

(CNWA) - Goldie Rogers d. Steve Gillespie; Brad Young d. Lyn St. Clair; Mike Lozanski d. J.T. Stringer; Benkai Sasaki d. Ken Johnson; Ron Ritchie/Randy Thatcher d. Duke Myers/The Judge; Steve DiSalvo d. Kerry Brown by DQ when Bulldog Bob interferes. RESTHOLD.

(LPWA) - Bad Girl d. Misty Blue Simmes when Bugaloo Brown pushes Misty off top; Magnificent Mimi d. Lelani Kai; Medusa Miceli d. LaGata. RESTHOLD.

(AWA ALL-STAR) - D.J. Peterson d. Tom Stone; FEATURE: Jake (Milkman) Milliman; Brad Rheingans d. Jimmy Magnum; Milliman d. Russian Brute by countout when Ox Baker fouls up & heart punches Brute; ARM WRESTLING: Nightstalker vs. John Nord ends in brawl. BOMB-PLUS.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Scotty the Body, PORTLAND, on Ricky Santana/Ginger: "If she dyed her hair red, they'd look like Lucy & Ricky Ricardo." 2. Scotty, PORTLAND, on Bill Prescott's nose: "If it's raining & I'm waiting on a cab, I could stand under your nose, Prescott, and stay dry." 3. Bulldog Bob Brown & Kerry Brown, CNWA: (BBB) "I can't wrestle. I have this cast on my arm." (KB) "But this afternoon, when you were at MY house." (BBB) "...just shut up!" 4. Norman, WWW: "I'm on a bean diet. I've got as much gas as you, Terry Funk (sound of gas-passing)." 5. Robert Goulet, WWF: "I've shared the bill with many headliners: Frank, Sammy, Wayne. Wayne? But at

WRESTLEMANIA 6, I'm sharing the bill with Hulk Hogan and the Ultimate Warrior. Now, those are REAL headliners (Goulet grins)." 6. Jim Cornette, WCW, on Ricky Morton's music: "The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals banned it because it was putting animals to sleep." 7. Ed Whalen, CNWA, on Goldie Rogers: "Companies that produce bleach love him." 8. Hillbilly Jim, PTW, on Terry Taylor's days w. Heenan Family: "He told me it was kinda like being with the Addams Family." 9. Larry Zbyszko, AWA, on his team: "I run a democracy." 10. Randy Rose, WVEU: "People look at you, Kent, & say there's a Middle-Age Mutant Ninja Co-Host."

11. Gordon Solie, PH: "Ole belongs with the Minnesota Twins. He did more fielding without answering anything." 12. Chris Cruise, WWW, on his Sting hat: "I bought it at the concession stand like everybody else. I don't get anything free around here." 13. Bobby Heenan, PTW: "I'll tell you what you can get from Superfly Snuka...malaria." 14. Norman, WWW, to Terry Funk: "You told me I could be anything I want to be. You're captain of nothing." 15. Beetlejuice, PORTLAND, on Madril: "It's time to turn off the TACO BELL hour and turn on the JUICE BAR." 16. Alfred Hayes, PTW, on Playboy Buddy Rose: "I don't know anybody who'd play with him." 17. Greg Gagne, AWA, on Ox Baker/Brute: "You've seen BEAUTY & THE BEAST. This is the BEAST and the PINHEAD." 18. Verne Gagne, AWA: "If you'd like to hear how streaking started in America, call me now." 19. Roddy Piper, PTW: "I've got a little black in me, a little chinese and I ain't got no yellow." 20. Heenan, PTW: "Tugboat smells like one of them sea lions."

21. Scotty, PORTLAND, on Santana: "When he came to America, he did the Cuban Super Saver---an inner tube and a compass." 22. Bill Prescott, PORTLAND, to Grappler: "You ought to go into the balloon business, you're so full of hot air." 23. Curtis Thompson, PORTLAND, to Jonathan Holliday: "I think you're wearing the cast because you've got a limp wrist." 24. Boni Blackstone, LPWA: "Move over, Mean Gene Okerlund." 25. Solie, PH, on Cactus Jack: "He gets vacant occasionally." 26. Funk, WWW, on Flair joining WOMAN: "Ric Flair swallowed hook, line and maybe the sinker."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Col. DeBeers, AWA, on Nightstalker: "I know he probably abuses steroids." 2. Funk, WWW: "Ric Flair is the best wrestler ever to step in a ring. I'm talking about Stranger Lewis, Lou Thesz, any of 'em." 3. Sgt. Slaughter, LPWA: "Lelani Kai is, pound-for-pound, the most powerful ladies' wrestler ever." 4. Goldie Rogers, CNWA: "The referee's a moron, just like you, Whalen." 5. Gorilla Monsoon, PTW: "You mean Andre might step in the ring early in the match? That'd be a switch." 6. Hulk Hogan, WWF: "When WRESTLEMANIA is over, it'll be the Hulkster & God they still trust."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Samuel P. Kent, WVEU: "Boni, are you gonna be a bimbo all of your life?" 2. Honeybee, WINDY CITY, to Turbo: "Are you waiting to get a date with me, or what?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. ANABOLIC NINJA (Steve Doll on Brian Adams). 2. ROSEANNE BARRS OF WRESTLING (Ray Oddyssey on Undertakers). 3. MR. INNOCENT (Sgt. Slaughter on Bugaloo Brown). 4. GOLDEN GIRLS (Iron Mike on Windy City Golden Boys). 5. TEDDY B. LONG (Gordon Solie on Theodore R.).

ENGLISH LESSONS - 1. Jesse Ventura, WWF: "The temperature has already ROSE 10 degrees in Toronto." 2. Kent, WVEU: "I would have loved to have WENT out to Las Vegas with you, Boni." 3. Kent, WVEU: "I have THROWED some of the biggest parties ever."

BEST PICTURES - 1. LPWA, Medusa Miceli's tights. 2. WWF, Robert Goulet grinning through WM6 promo. 3. WWW, Flair-Gilbert match. 4. LPWA, Medusa slamming LaGata on floor. 5. AWA, Ox Baker/Brute arguing. 6. PORTLAND, Holliday using umbrella on Thompson.

MOON OF THE WEEK - PTW, Martel's trunks pulled down by Taylor in rollup pin try.

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - PH, Solie's mike clipped during first match.

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Ken Resnick, LPWA: "...Katie bar the door." 2. Solie, PH: "...only time will tell." 3. Marc Lowrance, USWA: "....picture worth 1000 words."

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. Solie, PH: "Wrestle WARS '90" (2 weeks of plurals, Gordon). 2. Nick Busich, SCW: "Steve (The LAWLER) BRAWLER."

BOO AWARD - Ed Whalen, CNWA, for interrupting Bob Brown interview when it wasn't even his spot.

TUBE TALK

Joe Pedicino met with GA. ALL-STAR troops Sunday to finalize plans for his PW'90 series. Some of his veterans are balking at his planned characterizations....Expect Joe to do a 900 number in conjunction....Missy Hyatt did guest ring announcing for NWA in hometown of Tallahassee and has been busy showing her prized horse in the Atlanta area.

Good to hear from the great Ed Capral, the best wrestling announcer ever. Ed tells us ex-wrestler Greg Peterson is running a locksmith shop in Bonifay FL....Brian Lee & Robert Fuller have had a splitup in Memphis but not in Dallas...Forget NFL being lead-out to NWA MAIN EVENT next fall on TBS. The NFL package is going to TNT.

On Portland TV Saturday: an eight-man with the Southern Rockers & Juicers vs. Grappler/Adams/Madril/Equalizer...this was as lackluster a weekend of wrestling TV as I've seen in a while. Just no blowout show....Next week, we'll have the February averages for all the cable shows....Lots of radio shows after Superstar Billy Graham for interviews after his KNBC and ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT bits....A reminder: no MATWATCH annuals remain but I will be processing the final orders when they return from printers this week.

Congratulations to MATWATCHer D.J. Betke on his impending marriage....Pez Whatley's doing WWF jobs is an indicator of the state of the business....PWF had to cancel a show at Eddie Graham Sports Stadium because of its renovation. They'll try again in April....Don't forget WWF's ULTIMATE CHALLENGE special on USA Sunday night at 7 (ET/PT). It repeats in the PRIME TIME slot next Monday....The wraparounds on NWA MAIN EVENT will be live this coming Sunday on TBS. I can think of no other reason why WCW would do this unless.... Finally, did any of you do a doubletake during POWER HOUR Friday night or NWA PRO over the weekend? FSB.

MATWATCH HOTLINE
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MATWATCHING

WHO KNOWS?: You can't believe the numbers who continue to claim to know someone who knows someone who KNOWS Hulk Hogan is bolting Titan Sports after WRESTLEMANIA. Safest bet: watch the finish and you'll be able to tell. If Hogan wins or draws, he's sticking around, Disney calling or not.

TORONTO TICKETS: Some of the locals near Toronto say a lot of tickets still remained for WM6 as of last week because TV ads were being beefed up all over Canadian stations. One Toronto paper said 15,000 seats remained.

LIPTON LOVERS: Lipton Soup is sponsoring a special tent on Front & John St. near the Skydome on WM6 day. In addition to the sponsor's product, you can see free exhibitions by students of Ron Hutchinson's & Sweet Daddy Siki's School of Wrestling. Angelo Mosca will be ring announcer.

OTHER CANADA: Elsewhere north of the border, Ed Whalen reported on PRO WRESTLING PLUS the firing of Bulldog Bob Brown from CNWA. Much is also being made of Goldie Rogers winning four straight on the Fred May TV show.

NORD RETURNS: John Nord returns next Tuesday night to Portland (as a heel) to help Grappler and Brian Adams.

SCOTTYWATCH: I'm told two stories on Scotty...1) If the NWA doesn't sign him soon, Titan wants him simply to keep the NWA from getting him. 2) the NWA is after him but he's waiting until Jonathan Holliday's injury heels, so Don Owen would not be left in a bind.

VERNE SUMMIT?: Two stories on an alleged NWA-AWA deal: 1) NWA offered to buy out Verne & his TV slots with Greg Gagne getting 5% of the Minneapolis gates. 2) Jim Herd says "not true," saying two meetings were held with Verne on a possible "co-venture" and Verne didn't want to "co."

ELUSIVE ERIC: Eric Embry back in USWA last Friday but he only has two firm dates booked there. He teamed with Chris Adams and Matt Borne against Devastation, which once again indicates how callous promoters treat fans. Didn't Eric turn on Adams just two months ago before going to Florida?

CHAMPION AGAIN: Jerry Lawler won back the World Championship of Memphis Monday night over Jimmy Valiant, which is, by my count, his fourth USWA/Memphis reign. All just 6 days before Marc Lowrance proclaimed (in Dallas) Lawler had hung onto the belt "since the fall of 1988."

TOO MANY PROMOTERS: It appears everybody wants to be a wrestling promoter in Dallas. I've been told as many as nine groups, counting USWA, are trying to book shows in the Metroplex, with Gary Hart planning shows in April, Johnny Valentine organizing another group in a co-venture and Ivan Putski promoting yet another.

SOUTHEAST STARS: Our buddy David Williamson informs us a SOUTHEASTERN WRESTLING show was scheduled to debut Saturday (2-3 p.m. ET) on WFLI/Chattanooga. Don't know if this was the Southeast group promoting there last year.

NETWORKING: Floyd Perry Jr. in Sacramento-Stockton says KSCH may drop NWA WORLD WIDE soon. It's the only NWA in the No. 20 market. Floyd is urging Northern California readers to write the station and appeal for the NWA to be kept.

RADIO, RADIO: Chris Cruise scheduled on from St. Louis on Larry Katz's WCBM PRO WRESTLING TALK Saturday night. We'll also be on briefly with a report on the Flair-Luger match from St. Looie.

WHO'S FINISHING?: Lots of complaints coming from the NWA guys on alleged indecision from the booking committee. In Columbus, a number of wrestlers were doing their own finishes and insiders say factions remain on the panel, despite Ric Flair's departure.

SWITCHING TIMES: In case you tuned WPIX last Saturday at 11 and saw INCREDIBLE HULK, the NWA show has moved to 9 a.m.

PAULWATCH: By the time you read this, Paul E. Dangerously will likely have made up his mind on an announcing offer from the WWF or whether he will be back in Atlanta.

DEPARTING: A well-known WWF name has apparently decided to leave the group but questions remain on the departure date. A New York source tells us it will have a lot to do with the performer's future.

BIGELOW BACK: Sources tell us Bam Bam Bigelow will apparently return to the NWA as a non-contract performer, between Japan dates. But can you figure why Oliver Humperdink will return as his manager? Hump has long since Kahunaed out.

NORMAN ROOS: ROOS will develop a Norman shoe and the story has it the company will produce Great Muta footwear if Keiiji Muto decides to return.

FANTASTIC VIRGINIA: The Fantastics will be part of a card promoted by All-Star Wrestling Saturday night in Martinsburg VA. Manny Fernandez and John Studd are also billed.

SWEET DADDY: One of Larry Sharpe's MONSTER FACTORY grads, Sweet Daddy Falcone, is debuting in USWA. I'm told he looks like Brutus Beefcake with less hair. He's managed by Dirty Deeds Darren Wise.

JERSEY STORIES: Dennis Coralluzzo drew 900 (Somerset NJ) and 1,200 (Hammonton NJ) on March 7 & 8. Mostly local guys, along with Mike Sharpe and Jules Strongbow. Dennis next goes April 21 in Clayton NJ and April 22 in Washington Township.

MEADOWLANDS MOOLAH: Looks like a big house will turn out for the NWA show April 26. The first-day advance topped $30,000. NWA also sold out St. Petersburg Friday night with a Flair screw job win over Luger (Ole helped him) on top.

WHO'S COPYING WHO?: Joel Goodhart's March 31 show in Philly is toplining Austin Idol-Paul Orndorff but heat is developing over Dick Woerhle planning to run the night before with the same event only 15 miles away.

MIAMI MAYHEM?: Complaints over NWA TV Sunday night at Sun Blazer Arena. Many Miamians didn't know where the place (at Florida International University) was and as of Saturday, the Flair-Luger dark match had not been plugged in inserts.

RATINGS RAP

"GREATEST HITS" TOPS 2 MILLION; NME, WCW, PRIME TIME STILL HOT

A WRESTLING'S GREATEST HITS special on TBS, featuring the last 15 minutes of the Ric Flair-Lex Luger WRESTLE WAR '90 NWA title match, captured top spot in the cable ratings race for the week ending March 12.

Boosted by a 4.4/10 lead-in from the movie, PATTON, GREATEST HITS posted a 3.9 rating and 8.2 per cent share of audience, drawing 2.08 million homes.

NWA MAIN EVENT nosed out WWF PRIME TIME for the runner-up spot. Though both shows scored a 3.4 rating, NME edged PTW in homes, 1.82 million to 1.75 million. MAIN EVENT peaked with a 3.8/7.2 for the Robert Gibson-Jimmy Garvin match.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING continued its consistency, also drawing a 6.7% share of audience in drawing 1.74 million homes.

ALL-AMERICAN and POWER HOUR trailed the pack, staying virtually flat over the previous week.

In syndication, rating levels settled back to their usual patterns. The WWF posted a 9.5, topping the NWA by two points, both scoring close to their season averages.

CABLE

Week Ending Mar. 12	Rating	Share	Total Homes
NWA GREATEST HITS (TBS 3/11)	3.9	8.2	2.08 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 3/11)	3.4	6.7	1.82 million
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 3/12)	3.4	5.3	1.75 million
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 3/10)	3.3	6.7	1.74 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 3/11)	2.6	7.5	1.35 million
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 3/9)	2.5	4.1	1.31 million

SYNDICATION
(Week Ending Feb. 25)

	Rating/Stations	Last Week	Year to Date
WWF	9.5/248	12.2/252	9.8
NWA	7.5/176	7.7/176	7.9

MATWATCH SHOPPERS NETWORK

STEVE BRYANT, 708 Wanda Lane, Tullahoma TN 37388, still offers a big collection of photos for sale. But a reminder: Steve's catalog costs you $1.00 for postage and handling. Steve had a number of shots in our 1989 MATWATCH ANNUAL.

DENNIS BRENT, 2865 Lenox Rd. #308, Atlanta GA 30324, has a number of photos which were in our annual, as well, and a big collection which he sells from his pre-NWA WRESTLING WRAPUP days.

JOE MARSHALL, 7671 Eastwood St., Reynoldsburg OH 43068, has a big selection of photos for sale as well. Joe has been a photog for 24 years and has shots of Buster Douglas as well as many wrestlers.

WRESTLING OBSERVER YEARBOOK is again the premium annual on the market today. It was responsible for me losing many hours of sleep. Write to DAVE MELTZER, P.O. Box 1228, Campbell CA 95009-1228, and send a check for $12.50.

BRIAN MOOBERRY, 101[illegible] Garfield, Peoria IL 61606, wishes to trade tapes of NWA, WWF, AWA, Windy City, NWF and LPWA in exchange for wrestling program and magazines.

CLIFF BRENNER, P.O. Box 167, Dobbs Ferry NY 10522, is interested in buying the following books: "Whatever Happened to Gorgeous George," by Joseph F. Janes; "Fall Guys," by M. Griffin; and "Drawing Heat," by Jim Freedman.

FANTASY FEDERATION
$1 per copy
Dream matches between pro wrestlers. Hulk Hogan, Lex Luger, Ultimate Warrior, Ric Flair, Roddy Piper and others! Send $1 to Fantasy Federation, 50 Shelley Lane, Great Neck, NY 11023

MATWATCH SHOPPERS NETWORK appears in MATWATCH every 3 to 4 weeks. Please send requests to MATWATCH SHOPPERS NETWORK, 213 PINE HILLS AVE., AUBURN AL 36830. Please PRINT your requests clearly. Paid advertisements are not accepted.

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